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Case # NLJ 97-27

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DISTR. 29 MARCH 1966

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DATE OF INFO. 14 MARCH 1966

SUBJECT

VIET CONG DIRECTIVE TO EXPLOIT PRESENT UNREST AND DIS-
SENSATION IN GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE VIET CONG MILITARY AND
POLITICAL ACTIVITY

PLACE & DATE ACQ. VIETNAM, SAIGON (28 MARCH 1966)

REF

IN 85291

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL

FIELD REPORT NO.

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(C)APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: FEB 2001

1. ON 14 MARCH 1966 A VIET CONG (VC) DIRECTIVE WAS ISSUED, PRESUMABLY BY THE VC MY THO PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE (GVN DINH TUONG PROVINCE), ORDERING ALL VC ELEMENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF CURRENT DISSENSATION OVER THE OUSTER OF I CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL NGUYEN CHANH THI BY STEPPING UP BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. THE DIRECTIVE POINTS OUT THAT THE THI FACTION HAS REACTED STRONGLY TO THI'S REMOVAL AND HAS GIVEN ORDERS TO VN MILITARY TO PREPARE FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THI'S INTEREST. PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN CAO KY,

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HOWEVER, CONTROLS THE MILITARY AND THERE IS A CONSEQUENT CONTROVERSY WITHIN GVN RANKS, ACCORDING TO THE VC DIRECTIVE.

2. TO EXPLOIT THIS SITUATION, THEREFORE, THE VC HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO "FIND EVERY MEANS OF WEARING DOWN AND ANNIHILATING THE ENEMY." THE MEANS ARE TO INCLUDE A STEP-UP IN SABOTAGE AND ROAD INTERDICTION ACTIVITIES, AN INCREASE IN DEPLOYMENT OF GUERRILLA AND ENGINEER TROOPS FOR ATTACKS ON VEHICLES AND DESTRUCTION OF BRIDGES, CONTINUED DESTRUCTION OF STRATEGIC HAMLETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES TO BREAK THE GVN'S ADMINISTRATIVE GRIP IN CERTAIN AREAS, AND INFILTRATION OF VC MILITARY PROSELYTING ELEMENTS INTO DISSENTING GVN GROUPS IN ORDER TO WEAKEN THE MORALE OF THESE GROUPS AND CAMPAIGN AMONG THEM FOR DESERTIONS TO THE VC.

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3. [REDACTED] DISSEM. STATE USMACV USAID JUSPAO 2ND AIR DIV
CINCPAC ARPAC PACAF PACFLT.

END OF MESSAGE

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